(c) As per information furnished by the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), the Institute develops self-learning material in each subject for its learners based on the curriculum. In Shorthand and Typewriting, the self-learning lessons are printed in a single volume covering complete curriculum which is sufficient for learning all concepts included in the curriculum.

The NIOS develops its own curriculum in all subjects. The study material is developed by team of subject experts in self-learning mode. NIOS does not prescribe the books written by CBSE/NCERT etc.

Glorification of Sati

2731. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Government had brought out a book on the Glorification of Sati violating the provisions of the Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) As per the information made available to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women and Child Development, the Government of Rajasthan has denied that the practice of sati has been glorified in its official publication.

Education cess for primary education

2732. DR. P.C. ALEXANDER: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been specifically set apart from out of the education cess fund for financing primary education during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to utilize the education cess fund for the secondary education sector also; and